

55. (Amended) A composition comprising water soluble peptides, wherein said peptides are obtained by:

oxidizing human or animal hair, human or animal nails, fur, hooves, or feathers, in an aqueous oxidizing solution;

filtering said aqueous oxidizing solution to obtain a water soluble portion;

substantially neutralizing said water soluble portion; and

adding a water-miscible organic solvent to said water soluble portion, such that a precipitate is formed;

wherein said precipitate comprises water soluble peptides;

and further wherein at least about 90% of said water soluble peptides are between about 300 and about 1300 daltons in molecular weight.

Please cancel claim 66 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 55 is amended. Claim 66 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 55-65 and 67-96 are currently in the case. Claim 55 has been amended to include the limitations of canceled claim 66.

II. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The process steps in the instant claims are different than those in the cited references, and the products are distinguished at least by relative molecular weights.